

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

1783 Private  
Stephen Joseph  
Morris

13th Battalion



1830301G

13th Australian Imperial Force

Morris, S. J. 1783.  
( from 30th Batt ).

<sup>K. R. S. 16</sup>  
Informant states that on August 11th, 1916, a shell burst in the trench wounding Morris and others. Morris died about half an hour after being hit. The shell burst fairly close to informant, who heard the call for stretcher bearers. Informant saw Morris after he was dead. Morris was buried in front lines. Casualty happened about 11 p.m.

Informant :- Pte. W. Wood, 3511,  
Aus. I. Force 13th Batt.  
3rd General Hospital,  
Wandsworth, London, S. 3.

12/1/17.  
R. R. Jeffrey.

13th Australian Imperial Force  
(late 30 Batt)

Morris, S. J. 1783,  
D. Company

(Z. Aug. 11th/16. Det: D & B)

Informant states that on 11th August 1916 at Conquet Farm near Pozieres, Pte Morris was killed by a small shell ("Whizz bang").

Eye-witness: No, told by Pte Davis of same company about a week after

Description: Tall, thin, ginger moustache, "Steve"

Informant: Cpl Harold Evans, 3311,  
13th A.I.F., D. Coy,  
No. 7 Pennsylvania Hospital,  
Exeter.

Home address:  
The Nest,  
Eastwood,  
New South Wales.

5th March 1917.  
B. White.

Written Pte Davis 13.3.17

A. I. F. 13.

MORRIS, S.J. 1783.

K. August 11th, 1916.

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He was killed in the front line trench at Pozieres on August 11th. While we were waiting to go over a piece of shell caught him and killed him instantaneously. I saw his dead body lying in the trench. We only had a  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an hour before we went over the top. There could therefore be no question of burial. His body was put over the parapet. He belonged to XIV pl. D.Coy. He came I think from Coogee, N.S.W.

SA.

Reference:- Pte. C.M. Bear. 1877.  
D.Coy. No. 4 A.D.B.D.

Etaples  
20.8.17.

A. I. F. 13.

MORRIS, S.J. 1783.

K. August 11th, 1916.

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He was killed by a piece of shell which struck through his body in the front line trench at Mouquet Farm on August 11th. We saw his dead body lying in the trench. The body was buried in a shell hole just over the parapet. We saw this being done. He comes from N. Sydney. He belonged to XIII pl. D.Coy. and was a tall fellow with a fair moustache. SA.

Reference:- Pte. J.A. Bates, 1678. D.Coy.

Pte. Z. Fokes. 3508. D.Coy.  
No. 4 A.D.B.D.

Etaples  
2.8.17.

13th Battalion A.I.F.  
(late 30th Battalion)

MORRIS Pte. S.J. 1783

Killed in Action 11.8.16.

I knew Morris -- he was in D Co. and came from, I think, 2nd Reinforcements to 30th Battalion, and came from North Sydney. His wife has been to see me, and has shown me a report I gave to the London Red Cross, which was correct. She seemed quite satisfied.

The report was that Morris was killed on 10th not 11th August, 1916, at Mouquet Farm, about 11.15 p.m. by a shell. He was killed outright on the Thursday night. I saw his dead body at daylight the next morning. It was buried behind the parapet and a cross erected.

He was killed about 5 minutes after we got into the front line, when relieving another Battalion. The same shell also killed another man called Ballantine.

Informant:-- W. Wood, 3511.

13th Battalion A.I.F., D. Co.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

A careful reliable witness.

H.S.O.  
10.5.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Yvonne Ganeel P.1 S

5th February 1917.

Pte A.F. Morris,  
A.Coy,  
4th Battalion, A.I.F.  
B. 6 Ward  
3rd London General Hospital,  
WANDSWORTH. S.W.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your inquiry for No.1783 Pte S.J. Morris, 13th Battalion, and have unfortunately only very sad news to tell - He was officially reported Killed in Action 12-12-16. We also have an unofficial statement from one of his comrades, Pte W. Wood, 3511 13th Battalion, A.I.F., 3rd General Hospital, Wandsworth 12-1-17, who writes -

"On August 11th 1916, a shell burst in the trench, wounding Morris, and others. Morris died about half an hour after being hit".

Informant states that he saw Morris after he was dead. Morris was buried in front lines. The casualty happened about 11 p.m.

We shall send any details to Mrs. Morris, of Sydney also.

- 2 -

We regret having to give you such sad news, and assure you of our sincere sympathy.

Trusting you are progressing well.

Yours faithfully,

*F.N.*

Secretary

21st March 1917.

Pte. A. F. Morris,  
4th Australian Infantry Battalion.  
3rd London General Hospital.  
Wandsworth.

Dear Sir,

Re your inquiry for details of the death of your brother  
No. 1785. Pte. S. J. Morris, 15th Battn. A.I.F. we beg to advise  
you of the receipt of a further unofficial report, from No. 3311.  
Cpl. Darold Evans, who on March 5th. was in No. 2. Pennsylvania  
Hospital, Exeter.

He describes your brother as tall and thin with a "Ginger"  
moustache and says that he was known as Steve.

Informant was told by Pte. Davis of the same Company  
that Pte. Morris was killed by a small shell at Mouquet Farm on  
August 11th. 1916.

We are continuing the inquiry and will advise you of  
any further information that we receive.

With sincere sympathy and best wishes for your own com-  
plete recovery.

Yours faithfully,  
W. D. pe. C. A. W.  
Secretary.

March 15th.1917. --

Pte.Davis.  
D.Coy. 13th.Battn. A.I.F.  
B. E. F.

1783. S. J. Morris, D.Coy. 13th.Battn. A.I.F.  
(late 30th) Killed 11. 8.16.

S. J.Morris,

V. D.



4th May 1917.

Pte. A.F. Morris,  
4th Australian Inf. Batta.  
No. 3. Command Depot.  
Murdcott.  
Salisbury.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry for your brother No. 1735.

Pte. S.J. Morris, 13th Batta. A.I.F. we beg to advise you of another unofficial report given by No. 1877. Pte. C.M. Bear who on April 26th. was in No. 4. Base Details B.E.F.

He says that your brother was killed instantaneously by a piece of shell which was waiting in the front line trench at Pozieres just before the attack on August 11th. His body was put over the parapets just before they went over in the attack.

He belonged to XIV. Platoon, D. Coy. and came from Coogee, New South Wales.

Assuring you that we are making all possible inquiries in the hope of learning fuller details.

Yours faithfully,

V.A.  
Secretary.  
L.A.W.

May 8th

Pte. A.E. Morris  
4th Btn. A.I.F.  
No. 2 Command Depot  
Burdett, Salisbury Plains

Dear Sir,

A further unofficial report is to hand of the death of your brother No. 1785 Pte. S.J. Morris, 15th Btn. which confirms the evidence sent you on May 4th.

No. 1678 Pte. J.A. Bates says that your brother was killed by a piece of shell in the front line trench at Monquet Farm on Aug. 4th 1916, his burial taking place in a shell hole just over the parapet. He was a tall man with a fair moustache who came from North Sydney.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

Secretary.

L. A. W.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE SECRETARY,"  
WOUNDED AND MISSING  
— INQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS—  
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

May 8th

Pte. A.F. Morris  
4th Btn. A.I.F.  
No. 8 Command Depot  
Hurdcott, Salisbury.

Dear Sir,

A further unofficial report is to hand of the death of your brother No. 1768 Pte. S.J. Morris, 18th Btn. which confirms the evidence sent you on May 4th.

No. 1678 Pte. J.A. Bates says that your brother was killed by a piece of shell in the front line trench at Mopquet Farm on Aug. 4th 1916, his burial taking place in a shell hole just over the parapet. He was a tall man with a fair moustache who came from North Sydney.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

*Vera Beakin*

Secretary.

*V.B.*



3. 15 PM  
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU

54, VICTORIA STREET,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.



UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED  
RETURN TO SENDER

270. A.P.O. PARIS

A.P.O.  
UNABLE TO TRACE  
RETURN TO SENDER

*No record 1951*  
*Sw 1*

1st November

Cpl. S. J. Morris, 4853  
9th Australian Inf. Battalion,  
15th Hqts.  
B. E. F.

Dear Cpl. Morris,

We have had an enquiry for you from our Brisbane Office and have made two enquiries at Headquarters as to your whereabouts, and well-being. On 24th October and again on 26th October, Headquarters informed us that no casualty has been reported, so we presume you are with your Unit. We should be very glad to hear from you to this effect in order that we may allay the anxiety of the enquirers at home. Possibly your letters to Australia have gone astray, as has so often happened, and it might be advisable for you to write to your people and explain personally.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

*V. D.*

Secretary  
*m 710*